

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 11 and 12 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claim 9 as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A block polymer comprising a polyalkenyl ether main chain comprising:

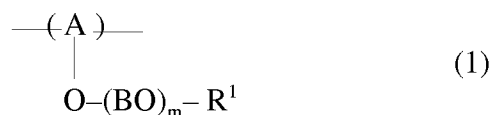
a first block segment having hydrophobicity;

a second block segment having an upper limit hydration temperature exceeding 70°C;

and

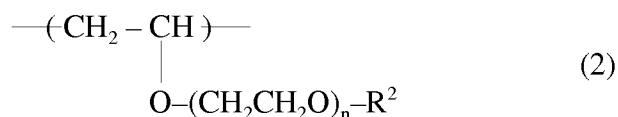
a third block segment having an ionic property,

wherein the second block segment is represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein A represents an unsubstituted or substituted polyvinyl group; B represents an unsubstituted or substituted linear or branched alkylene group with 1 to 15 carbon atoms; m represents an integer from 2 to 50; B is optionally different; and R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, -CH<sub>3</sub> or -C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, and

wherein the block segment represented by general formula (1) is represented by the following general formula (2):



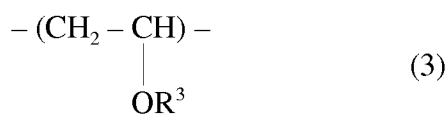
wherein n represents an integer from 2 to 50; and R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, -CH<sub>3</sub>, or -C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A block polymer according to claim 1, wherein the third block segment is a block segment showing anionic property.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A block polymer according to claim 1, wherein the first block segment is represented by general formula (3):



wherein R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group with 1 to 18 carbon atoms, Ph, Pyr, Ph-Ph, Ph-Pyr, -(CH(R<sup>4</sup>)-CHR<sup>5</sup>)-O)<sub>p</sub>-R<sup>6</sup> and -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>k</sub>-(O)<sub>l</sub>-R<sup>6</sup> in which a hydrogen atom in the aromatic ring is optionally substituted by a linear or branched alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms and a carbon atom in the aromatic ring is optionally substituted by a nitrogen atom; p represents an integer from 1 to 18; k represents an integer from 1 to 36; l

represents 0 or 1; R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> each independently represent a hydrogen atom or CH<sub>3</sub>; R<sup>6</sup> represents a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group with 1 to 18 carbon atoms, Ph, Pyr, Ph-Ph, Ph-Pyr, -CHO, -CO-CH=CH<sub>2</sub>, -CO-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)=CH<sub>2</sub> or -CH<sub>2</sub>COOR<sup>7</sup> in which a hydrogen atom in the aromatic ring is optionally substituted by a linear or branched alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, F, Cl or Br, and a carbon atom in the aromatic ring is optionally substituted by a nitrogen atom; and R<sup>7</sup> represents an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

6. (Previously Presented) A block polymer according to claim 1, wherein the first block segment comprises a single repeating unit structure.

7. (Original) A polymer-containing composition comprising the block polymer according to claim 1, a solvent or a dispersing medium, and a functional substance.

8. (Original) A polymer-containing composition according to claim 7, wherein the functional substance is enclosed in the block polymer.

9. (Currently Amended) An ink composition comprising the polymer-containing composition according to claim 7, wherein the functional substance is a colorant.

10. (Original) A liquid application method comprising the steps of:  
preparing the polymer-containing composition according to claim 7; and  
applying the polymer-containing composition to a medium.

11 - 12. (Cancelled)